Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-10 DODE-00 /021 W
---------- 047406
P 070430Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9606

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 1279

FOR EA/ANP MOSER: PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR SELDEN
FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: NA
SUBJECT: MEDICAL EVACUATION OF PEACE CORPS PERSONNEL ASSIGNED
TO FIJI, TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA

1. CALHOUN HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO ISLANDS WHERE
HE FOUND PEACE CORPS COUNTRY DIRECTORS IN FIJI, TONGA
AND WESTERN SAMOA VERY MUCH CONCERNED BY A RECENT DECISION
THAT PC VOLUNTEERS CAN NO LONGER USE TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL
CENTER, HAWAII, FOR PURPOSES OF MEDICAL EVACUATION EXCEPT
IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. DECISION APPARENTLY STEMS FROM
SHIFT OF TRIPLER HOSPITAL FROM THE PACIFIC COMMAND TO THE
HEALTH SERVICE COMMAND. COUNTRY DIRECTORS HAVE FOUND
TRIPLER HIGHLY SATISFACTORY DUE TO ITS RELATIVE ACCESSBILITY
TO ISLAND COUNTRIES CONCERNED, ITS DEPTH OF QUALIFIED STAFF
IN EVERY SPECIALTY, AND ITS EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING MEDICAL
EVACUATIONS.

2. ALTERNATIVE TO TRIPLER IS SENDING VOLUNTEERS TO
WASHDC WHICH MORE THAN DOUBLES
THE COST OF EACH MEDICAL EVACUATION. A LONGER
DISTANCE TO BE TRAVELED INVOLVES DELAYS IN OBTAINING
ADQUATE MEDICAL HELP AND KEEPS VOLUNTEERS AWAY FROM
THEIR WORK FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME THAN WOULD OTHER-
WISE BE THE CASE. FINALLY, VOLUNTEERS FACE ADDED TROUBLE
AND CLOTHING EXPENSE IF EVACUATED FROM A TROPICAL
CLIMATE TO WASHDC., ESPECIALLY IN WINTER TIME.
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3. COUNTRY DIRECTORS URGED THAT YOUR ASSISTANCE BE SOUGHT
IN HAVING TRIPLER REINSTATED AS MEDICAL EVACUATION
POINT FOR PEACE CORPS PERSONNEL IN THREE COUNTRIES.

YOU HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO HELP IN TELECOM EARLIER
TODAY AND WE KNOW YOU WILL DO YOUR BEST.
KILLGORE

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